

Saint Paul's Lutheran church

November
2019
Newsletter



www.stpaulserie.org

Thanksgiving Feast



Everyone is invited to join us on Sunday, November 17 at Presque Isle's Rotary Pavilion for worship at 11 AM and our Thanksgiving Feast from 12:30-3 PM. Family and friends are always welcome, so bring someone new to worship.

Pavilion is handicap accessible. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Place settings will be provided. Sign-up on the sheet in the narthex. Transportation provided, as long as you sign up.

Questions? Contact Melissa Collins at YouthDirector@stpaulserie.org or 814-833-1761, ext. 105.

Advent Activity

Please come and join us for our Advent intergenerational activity on Sunday, November 24 from 10:15-11:15 AM in the Fellowship Hall. We will be Chrismon decorating. There will be glitter glue, gold paint, beads, and yes-GLITTER to make new Chrismons for our sanctuary Christmas trees. We will hang them as a congregation during service on Sunday, December 8.

Questions? Contact Melissa Collins at YouthDirector@stpaulserie.org or 814-833-1761, ext. 105.



Chrismon Advent Activity

Sunday, November 24
10:15-11:15 AM
Fellowship Hall

Christmas Cookie Trays



Please help us by: donating cookies, assembling the cookie trays, or delivering the cookie trays. We will be working on the cookie trays and delivering them on Sunday, December 15 after the worship service.

There will be a sign-up in the narthex by the end of November to sign up for donating cookies and delivering cookies trays.

If you know of anyone who would benefit from receiving a cookie tray and/or if you are able to help out in any way, contact Terry Moyer or Ruth Moyer at CookieTrays@stpaulserie.org or 814-833-1761, ext. 336 and leave a message.

Time to start thinking about baking all of our favorite holiday cookies! Let's bring some Christmas cheer to those in need in our community by sharing some of our delicious cookies. Last year, we made and delivered 50 cookie trays!

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

3108 Sterrettania Road

Erie, PA 16506-2658

www.stpaulserie.org

Saturday Worship Service, 5 PM

Sunday Worship Service, 9 AM

Scripture Study, Wednesdays at 9 AM

Adult Bible Study, Sat. at 4 PM & Sun. at 10:15 AM

Sunday School for all ages, Sun. at 10:15 AM

(September-May)

Office hours: 9 AM - 5 PM,

Monday- Friday

814-833-1761 | Office@stpaulserie.org



Pastor Sami

Pastor Sami Pfalzgraf's Office Hours:

Mondays & Wednesdays:
9 AM-12 PM

814-833-1761, ext. 103

Pastor@stpaulserie.org

Pastor Sami's November Greeting

We are still searching for a Director of Student Ministry. This ministry continues to be a vital part of St. Paul's and I will help lead it until the right person is found. As I've been listening to parents, students and congregation members, I hear a lot of yearning for more opportunities after Confirmation. Many people in their own faith journeys felt a crisis of faith when they finished Confirmation. Adults have told me they wished they had the space to ask the difficult questions. Students who are now in college have said how much they appreciate Amy and Gabe's High School Sunday school and how they created such a safe and judgement-free space. As a vision for the Student Ministry, we are working with the Children's Ministry to create a firm foundation in Biblical and Lutheran knowledge. When students enter Confirmation, we help them to begin to think critically about their foundational knowledge and start asking difficult questions about faith. That way, when they reach high school, students can ask the really hard questions of faith that many adults wrestle with.

Fuller Youth Institute has created a curriculum that strives to help the faith of teens "stick" after they graduate from school. "Teenagers are tired of vague or nonexistent answers to their tough questions about God, the Bible, and Christianity. Just when they're capable of diving into the deep end of their faith, all too often the church keeps them splashing around in shallow waters. As eight years of Sticky Faith research on teenagers has shown, it's not doubt or hard questions that are toxic to faith. It's silence. The trusted voice of the Fuller Youth Institute and proven best practices from churches around the country converge to provide you with tools both to start conversations about hard questions, as well as to lead students toward discovering their own faith convictions." -Pastor Sami

Welcome New Members

St. Paul's is thrilled to welcome our newest members (l-r):

Jacob Bennett, Bre Fetterman, & Kristine Balinski.

They were welcomed into the St. Paul's family on September 28, 2019.



Jacob, Bre, & Kris

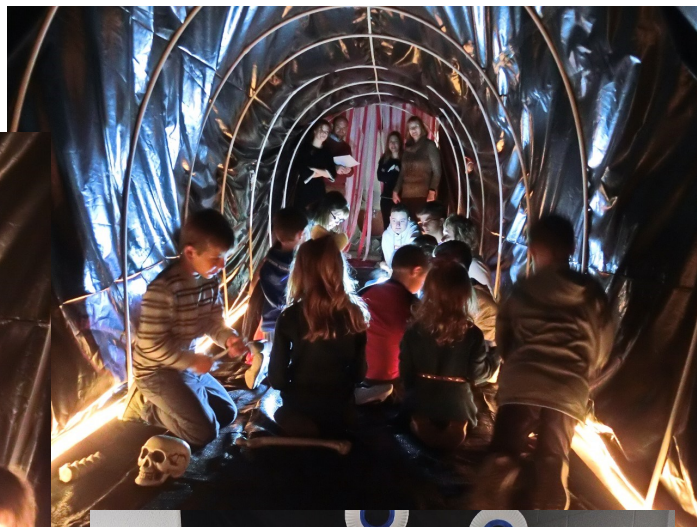
First Communion Students

Congratulations to the following students who received their First Communion on Sunday, October 20, 2019:

Shyann Brown, Nathan Burillo, Violet Gould, Harper Scheuring, & Aspen Simmons.



Rotation Sunday School: Jonah & the Whale



October kicked off a new rotation where we explored the story of Jonah and the whale. The whale unveil was a BIG surprise to all the Sunday School students!

A huge thank you to Ron Till, Mike Barber, and Mike Collins for planning, building, and keeping the secret of the amazing whale! Thank you to Pastor Sami and Emily Collins for making the face and putting all the final touches together.

The kids had a "whale of a time," as well as many adults that went inside. Check out our Facebook page for a movie tour of the whale's belly!

CROP Walk Recap

Your support of the 2019 CROP Hunger Walk was tremendous! Thank you to everyone who either walked the Walk and/or gave monetary gifts. This year's total was \$2,339 (compared to 2018's \$1,830). What an increase! A special thank you to Carol Davis, St. Paul's top fundraiser AGAIN! She raised \$1,376. Way to go, Carol!!! The donated canned goods were given to this year's drawing winner: the Girard-Lake City Christian Cupboard.

Thanks to Peggy Fuhrman, St. Paul's 2018 Team Leader; Joanne Erikson, who tracked the funds; all those who participated in the CROP skit; St. Paul's cheerleaders, especially Pastor Sami who was the winner of the craziest outfit; and Ken Thompson, St. Paul's 2019 Team Leader! Our cheerleaders enthusiastically greeted ALL the walkers as they crossed the finish line on what turned out to be a beautiful and rewarding day. Well done, St. Paul's, for always being on the front line when it comes to fighting local, regional, and worldwide hunger.



St. Paul's 2019 CROP Walk Team

Congregational Care Ministries

Congregational Sympathy

Congregational sympathy is shared with the family & friends of **Willis G. Bax**, father of Gary Bax, who passed away on October 5, 2019.

Congregational Prayers

Please keep our following brothers and sisters in Christ in your daily prayers:

Shawn Conrad, Alice Eger, Marsha Grace, Charlotte Haggerty, Kay Heidler, Bishop Michael Lozano, Charles Roward, Cathy Sims, Al Swab, & all those receiving care from our Stephen Ministers. Pray for members of our church family and community who are facing illness or surgery.

Continue to pray for those who are homebound or in nursing homes: **Clara Davis, Kathryn Duran, Alice Eger, Kay Heidler, Ken Johnson, Phyllis Lindahl, Emmy Loomis, Sally McIlvried, Ellie Perry, Alice Ristau, Connie Slattery, and Donna Spangler.** Wrap your hearts around those who are alone, broken-hearted, grieving, or anxious.

We continue to pray for those who are close to us who serve in the military, including their families: **Samuel Arthur, Michael Cunningham, Dylan Green, David Hall, Brennan Madara, Natalie Rambish, Benjamin Sperring, Brody Swab, Jordan Swab, Christopher Tinsman, Thomas Weidle, and Zachary Zehner.**

We keep our college students in prayer as they study and prepare for their future vocations: **Breanna Berger, Karly Bliley, Emily Collins, Ethan Cunningham, Alex Farantz, Anna Farantz, Andrew Haverly, Justin Kuric, Alexa Kwiatkowski, Evan Lang, Madison Maciulewicz, Matthew Parry, Eriq Schau, Spencer Sorenson, Ian Stroul, Nikki Zehner, and Ryan Zimmerman.**

Anniversaries

Nov 7– Dan & Donna Crotty
Nov 18– Christie & Don Young
Nov 27– Sherry & Chuck Bechtold

Birthdays

Nov 2– Richard McGarvie
Nov 3– Jan Spurlin
Nov 5– Jessica Carr
Nov 6– Claire Barber, Alec McKenna
Nov 8– Christine Haverly, Dennis Renz
Nov 10– Louise Berger
Nov 12– Sharron Huck
Nov 14– Jenny Forehand, Mike Wright
Nov 16– Sophie Beilharz, Nolan Carr, Kathie Fry, Karen Marzka
Nov 17– Jim Berger, Teddy Buchanan
Nov 18– Don Buzzard, Reid Cunningham, Kevin Kuric
Nov 19– Corinne Bechtold, Gerry Bender, Liz Parry
Nov 20– Ellie Schau, Marsha Walker
Nov 21– Gayle Elmer
Nov 22– Matt Scheuering
Nov 23– Dan DeCoursey, Cheryl Till
Nov 26– Zach Chiapa
Nov 27– David Williams
Nov 29– Paul Bowser, Max Reitz
Nov 30– Jenna Balogh, Cindi Bokulich, Sharon Lore

Visitation requests, including home communion, or congregational care questions? Contact June Kessler at CongregationalCare@stpaulserie.org or 814-833-1761, ext. 339.

Congregational Congratulations

Best wishes to **Marit Bakken** and **Nick Barber** upon their marriage on October 5, 2019. Congratulations!



Marit & Nick

We welcome **Bridget Cathron Sims**, daughter of Dan Krysiak & Christina Sims, into the body of Christ. She was baptized on October 12, 2019.

We also welcome **Sawyer Kate Scheuering**, daughter of Leslie & Matt Scheuering, into the body of Christ. She was baptized on October 19, 2019.

Congregational Thank You Notes

I wish to thank Pastor Sami for her visits and prayers. And I would also thank the congregation for their thoughts and prayers during my surgery and for the cards I've received. Also, thanks to the mowing team for covering for me.

*In Christian Love,
Ted Firment*

Thank you so much to Cindy Dohanic, Michelle Fuller, Steve Thelin and the youth of St. Paul's for helping us learn how we can care for St. Paul's. God calls us to be stewards, or caretakers, of God's holy church. All of these people give so much of their time to help us grow in our faith, together.

Congregational Fellowship

Ladies Lunch Bunch

Ladies Lunch Bunch is a women's fellowship group open to all women. We meet next on Thursday, November 14 at 12 PM at Hoss's on 3302 W. 26th St.

Reservations are encouraged by contacting Connie Sloppy at LadiesLunchBunch@stpaulserie.org or 814-833-1761, ext. 326. We hope to see you there!



Well-Watered Disciples Men's Fellowship



All men are welcome to join us for fun, food, & fellowship. We meet the third Wednesday of every month at a different establishment in & around Erie. We will meet next on Wednesday, November 20 at 6:30 PM, location TBA (check Facebook for updates). Invite your friends!

RSVP is helpful, but not required. Contact Bill Gross at BillGross@stpaulserie.org.

Patchwork of Love Quilting & Knitting Ministry

Len & Bryan Toy took the aluminum cans for recycling on October 1. For 137 pounds of cans we received \$47.79. Thanks to everyone who saved their cans & brought them to the church.

Patchwork of Love is in need of contributions: sheets for backings, embroidery floss for tying, money to buy batting, & yarn for knitting hats.

Monetary donations can be given to Nick Barber in the church office. Sheets, floss, & yarn can be left in the narthex.

Thanks again to those who have given their cans for recycling!

Property Ministry

When we think property, we often think plumbing and electric work, but it's more than that. It's hanging ceiling tiles, hanging things on the wall, painting, changing light bulbs, and other random things around the church. It's also redecorating projects, like the bathrooms in the office and in Clare-Wolfe. The wallpaper can be stripped, walls and countertop can be painted, and we can get new light fixtures. There are many fun projects that need to be completed. The Property Team meets the first Monday of every month at 7 PM, if you want to join us at a meeting.

Clean Team

The church is a big place and we need help keeping it clean; especially the special and deep cleaning projects. Examples of projects include: cleaning the wax off the pews after candle lighting services and then wiping down the pews, wiping down doors and door knobs, and shampooing carpets. This team is also a great resource for the property team to better track important improvement projects needed in the church. If you are interested in being on the Clean Team, please contact Pastor Sami at Pastor@stpaulserie.org or 814-833-1761, ext. 103.

Church Attendance & Finances



By The Numbers:	Sept. 2019
Avg. Attendance: Saturday	34
Avg. Attendance: Sunday	98
September Offering	\$29,272
September Expenses	\$27,351
September Difference	\$1,921
Offering Year-to-Date	\$243,884
Expenses Year-to-Date	\$239,383
Difference Year-to-Date	\$4,501

Pre-School Ministries

A big thank you to the West Ridge Fire Dept. for coming to Pre-School to talk to the children about fire safety, letting them climb aboard the big ladder truck, and letting them see all the fire equipment. During the month of November, the Pre-School children will celebrate Thanksgiving and learn about being "thankful" and giving to others, as we will host a food drive from Nov 8-15 that will benefit The Emmaus Soup Kitchen. We will also be learning about our 5



senses on Popcorn Day, as we sing our Popcorn song and enjoy smelling and tasting freshly popped popcorn. We will also explore "likes and differences" with classroom activities to help them understand what looks the same and what looks different. We will enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday break from Nov. 27 - Dec. 2. Pre-School will resume on Wednesday, Dec. 4. We wish all of our families and friends of St. Paul's a very happy Thanksgiving. God bless!

Questions? Contact Tammi Ferrante at PSDirector@stpaulserie.org or 814-833-1761, ext. 114.

Student Ministries (7-12 grades)

Upcoming events:

- ⇒ November 1-3: Confirmation Retreat at the Kessler Cabin in North East, PA.
- ⇒ November 9: Scrapalooza Student Ministry fundraiser needs student volunteers, as well as adult volunteers. Sign up on the Student Ministry bulletin board in the hallway or on google-docs. Contact Pastor Sami for access.

After we finish cleaning up Saturday night, we will play Sardines in the church until 11 PM. Sardines is reverse Hide-and-Go-Seek.

- ⇒ November 17: Worship & Thanksgiving Dinner at Presque Isle's Rotary Pavilion.



We are still searching for a Student Director. Please share this opportunity with friends and family.

Director of Student Ministry

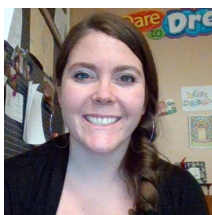
10 hours a week with very flexible hours. The only required time is Sunday mornings from 8:30 AM-12:30 PM.

Overall Tasks:

- Communicate and partner with parents
- Provide training for volunteers
- Manage annual youth budget
- Develop and recruit adult and youth volunteers
- Plan and coordinate the Summer Mission Trip
- Work with the pastor in organizing Sunday morning student education.
- Teach Confirmation class once a month (Sept.—April)
- Work with the Student Ministry Team to plan and execute student activities
- Fill in with student education, if there is an emergency.

High School Sunday School

High School will continue to meet every other week and we are excited to announce that we have three new teachers this year! Katy Zech and Kristyn Ross are the first teaching team. Elysa



Elysa

Farrell is our second. These ladies will be teaching "Can I Ask That," a curriculum that strives to help the faith of teens "stick" after they graduate from school.



Kristyn & Katy

High School Sunday School Schedule for Fall/Winter:

November 3: Can I be a Christian and believe in evolution?

- Kristyn and Katy

November 17: Does God discriminate against women?

- Elysa

December 1: Does God endorse violence?

- Kristyn and Katy

December 15: Is the story of Christmas true? (with Confirmation students)

- Pastor Sami

December 29: No Class

Community Care Ministries

Thank you to everyone who donated items for **World Food Day!** Thanks to Larry Kessler for delivering our donations to the Holy Trinity Pasta & Soup Kitchen.

As the Advent season approaches, we are planning to introduce a **Reverse Advent Calendar**. Starting on December 1, you will place a non-perishable food item in a bag or box and continue to fill your bag or box until Christmas Day. Our donations will benefit the Holy Trinity Food Bank. Look for the Reverse Advent list on the communications/welcome area in the narthex. Traditional Advent calendars will also be available.

December will also bring our Good Gifts Christmas Tree trimmed with **Good Gifts** ornaments that you can purchase. Consider buying a goat, pig, or some honeybees for Christmas gifts!

Of course, the **Giving Tree** will also be trimmed with gift ideas & food items to distribute to some families in need in our community. Help make some child's Christmas special by taking a tag (or two) off the tree!

There are many ways that you can "do something" to make our community & world a better place to live!!

Reverse Advent 25 Acts of Kindness



Starting on December 1, you will place a non-perishable food item in a bag or box and continue to fill your bag or box until Christmas Day.

All donations will benefit the Holy Trinity Food Bank.

GriefShare will meet on Monday, November 18 at 12:30 PM in St. Paul's Clare-Wolfe Lounge. Each session of GriefShare involves watching a video, journaling, and group discussion. Questions? Contact Heather McLaughlin at GriefSupportGroup@stpaulserie.org.

Schedule for Worship Assistants

Date	Time	Altar Care	Ushers	Assistant Minister	Communion Assistant	Acolyte	Cross-bearer
Nov 2	5:00 PM	Moore Team					
Nov 3	9:00 AM	Roward/May Team	Gross/Kessler Team	Erich Zech	Jim Scott	Sam Forehand	Ethan Leopold
Nov 9	5:00 PM	Elmer/Moore Team					
Nov 10	9:00 AM	Roward/May Team	Scott/Chiapa Team	Karen Marzka	Steve Thelin	Xavier Jones	Hannah Schmidt
Nov 16	5:00 PM	Lang Team					
Nov 17	9:00 AM	Roward/May Team	Kaffka/Firment Team	Larry Kessler	Debbie DeCoursey	Nicole Mezler	Ethan Bechtold
Nov 23	5:00 PM	Ford/Fuhrman Team					
Nov 24	9:00 AM	Roward/May Team	Marzka/Collins Team	Wayne Gardner	Ron Till	Ethan Leopold	Hannah Schmidt
Nov 30	5:00 PM	Zimmerman/ Bax Team					

For scheduling information, contact one of the following individuals via email or call 814-833-1761 and use the appropriate extension:

Saturday Altar Care– Cheryl Moore at SatAltarCare@stpaulserie.org | ext. 352

Sunday Altar Care – Karen Marzka at AltarCare@stpaulserie.org | ext. 322

Worship Assistants – Erich & Pam Zech at WorshipAssistants@stpaulserie.org | ext. 348

Acolytes & Ushers– Larry Kessler at Worship@stpaulserie.org | ext. 315

November Calendar

November 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Reformation Sunday 8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Paul's Table 10:15 AM Sunday School 6:30 PM Trunk-Or-Treat	28 12:30 PM Grief Share Meeting	29 9:00 AM Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 5:00 PM Holy Trinity Pasta & Soup Kitchen	30 9:00 AM Scripture Study 12:00 PM Holy Trinity Pasta & Soup Kitchen 4:00 PM Karate Class 6:30 PM Book Club 8:00 PM Men's Basketball League	31 Reformation Day 6:30 PM Men's Basketball	1 All Saints Day 7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	2 12:00 PM Holy Trinity Pasta & Soup Kitchen 4:00 PM Paul's Table 5:00 PM Worship
3 Daylight-Saving Time Ends 8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Paul's Table 10:15 AM Sunday School	4 6:30 PM Ministry Board Night	5 9:00 AM Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Holy Trinity Pasta & Soup Kitchen	6 9:00 AM Scripture Study 12:00 PM Holy Trinity Pasta & Soup Kitchen 4:00 PM Karate Class 6:30 PM Book Club 8:00 PM Men's Basketball League	7 6:30 PM Men's Basketball	8 7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group 7:00 PM Scrapalooza Setup	9 8:30 AM Scrapalooza 12:00 PM Holy Trinity Pasta & Soup Kitchen 4:00 PM Paul's Table 5:00 PM Worship
10 Martin Luther's Birthday 8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Paul's Table 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM MFS	11 Veterans Day	12 9:00 AM Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 5:00 PM Holy Trinity Pasta & Soup Kitchen	13 9:00 AM Scripture Study 12:00 PM Holy Trinity Pasta & Soup Kitchen 4:00 PM Karate Class 6:30 PM Book Club 6:30 PM Down Syndrome Group Meeting 8:00 PM Men's Basketball League	14 12:00 PM Ladies Lunch Bunch 6:30 PM Men's Basketball	15 Newsletter Articles Due 7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	16 12:00 PM Holy Trinity Pasta & Soup Kitchen 4:00 PM Paul's Table 5:00 PM Worship
17 8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Paul's Table 10:15 AM Sunday School 12:30 PM Thanksgiving Feast	18 12:30 PM Grief Share Meeting 6:00 PM Church Council Meeting	19 9:00 AM Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 5:00 PM Holy Trinity Pasta & Soup Kitchen	20 9:00 AM Scripture Study 12:00 PM Holy Trinity Pasta & Soup Kitchen 4:00 PM Karate Class 6:30 PM Book Club 6:30 PM Well-Watered Disciples 8:00 PM Men's Basketball League	21 6:30 PM Men's Basketball	22 7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	23 12:00 PM Holy Trinity Pasta & Soup Kitchen 4:00 PM Paul's Table 5:00 PM Worship
24 8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Paul's Table 10:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Advent Activities	25	26 9:00 AM Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 5:00 PM Holy Trinity Pasta & Soup Kitchen	27 Pre-School Closed 9:00 AM Scripture Study 12:00 PM Holy Trinity Pasta & Soup Kitchen 4:00 PM Karate Class 6:30 PM Book Club 8:00 PM Men's Basketball League	28 Church Office Closed Thanksgiving Day	29 Church Office Closed Pre-School Closed 7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	30 12:00 PM Holy Trinity Pasta & Soup Kitchen 4:00 PM Paul's Table 5:00 PM Worship